

# Austin Climate Protection Program Quarterly Update



Resource Management Commission

July 20, 2010

# Environmental Awareness Awards 2010 Winners

Austin Energy Green Building Program

City of Austin program award

Central Texas Zero Waste Alliance

Community/ Nonprofit

Texas Facilities Commission Recycle Program

Governmental Agency

Dell and Goodwill Industries of Central Texas

Large Business

Richard Craig, Pease Park

Mayors Individual Awards

Bryker Woods Elementary School

School or Educational Program

Barr Mansion & Artisan Ballroom

Small Business

*Nominations for the  
2011 Environmental  
Awareness Awards will  
be accepted beginning  
January 1, 2011.*

## Air Quality Monitoring

- January 2010 the Environmental Protection Agency proposed a tougher ozone standard between 60 and 70 parts per billion (ppb).
- On June 7<sup>th</sup>, Austin area recorded an air quality monitoring reading that would put region's current design value at 72 ppb, placing it above the proposed standard.
- It is now reasonable to assume the region will be designated non-attainment by the federal government by 2011.
- Local clean air partners, including the City of Austin, are committed to continuing current voluntary efforts to improve air quality while a designation is determined.

# Community Climate Action Plan

- Kick-off March 4 & 5, 2010
- Follow-up meetings with Advisory Board and Sector Chairs
  - April 1
  - June 16
- All Stakeholders meeting scheduled in next two weeks.
- Staff lead start date is July 19, 2010

# Departmental Climate Protection Plans (DCPPs)

- All 25 departments and 4 building plans now signed and filed on [coolaustin.org](http://coolaustin.org)
- Climate Action Reporting System (CARS) in development with CTM
  - Provides dashboard for Department Directors to review greenhouse gas emissions of facilities, operations, and fleet
  - Includes a carbon reduction performance measure to be linked to 2012 Budget

# Climate Action Team

- Monthly meetings continue with COA staff to provide
  - Updates or new information from different departments
  - Discussion on implementing DCPPs
- Working in teams to identify barriers for achieving climate actions in the 6 areas of DCPPs
  - Energy
  - Water
  - Transportation Fuel
  - Purchasing
  - Materials management
  - Waste

## Carbon Calculator

- Released January 2, 2010 and officially introduced to Austin community in conjunction with the Austin Climate Protection Expo on January 15, 2010.
- An education campaign was launched with release of tool to encourage use of the carbon calculator so that will be an effective tool in achieving carbon reductions.

# Carbon Calculator

- Reward program developed to encourage user participation in order to:
  - reach the goals of educating the community
  - set a baseline for community carbon emissions within the residential sector.
- Bi-monthly drawings for prizes to incentivize use of the calculator: SXSU wristbands, compost bin, rain barrel, bicycle, solar backpack, and Farmer's Market tokens.

# Carbon Calculator

## Goals for Carbon Calculator:

- User Participation
  - 500 new registered users per month for the first 3 months for calendar year 2010 and 250 registered users for each subsequent month on the Comprehensive Carbon Footprint Calculator
  - 50 users per month using the One-minute Carbon Footprint Calculator
- Outreach and Events - Carbon calculator available for use at twenty events for calendar year 2010

# Carbon Calculator

## Progress on Goals:

- 891 registered users as of June 30, 2010
- 1-minute calculator averaging 543 users each month, as of June 30, 2010
- Carbon Calculator available at 9 events as of June 30, 2010

## Carbon Calculator

Looking forward, the vendor is planning an upgrade to the calculator, expected completion October 2010, which will include an interface with Facebook and additional functionality.

# Urban Heat Island Projects

- **Green Roof Advisory Group's (GRAG) - initiated by Council Member Riley with the goal of examining the future of green roofs in Austin, as well as existing and potential incentives**
- **Tree Inventory and Mapping, and Expanded City Tree Planting Program in right-of-ways and parks**
- **Large Shade Tree plantings in commercial areas, NeighborWoods and Austin Community Trees planting trees in neighborhoods**
- **Austin' Tree of the Year program and Arbor Day – education and public awareness programs**
- **Building code requirements for light-colored, or green roofs;**
- **Incentive/Enforcement of Tree-Saving Ordinance**
- **Ordinance mandating 50% Canopy Coverage within 15 years for all new parking lots**
- **Education and outreach through the City of Austin Urban Heat Island website, and outreach materials for distribution at public events**

# Urban Heat Island Tree Plantings

- Large Shade Tree Contract
  - 10 large trees (5 inch caliper) for 23<sup>rd</sup> Street/Renaissance Market Project
  - 60 trees (15 gallon) for Keep Austin Beautiful neighborhood grant program
  - 912 trees (5 gallon) for Austin Community Tree program, South Congress Neighborhood Planning Area
- NeighborWoods Tree Planting Program
  - 3,600 trees (5 gallon) placed in neighborhoods throughout Austin
  - 25,900 trees placed through this program since 2002

# Questions?

